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**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR COMPOSITING IMAGES WITH**  
**COMPENSATION FOR LIGHT FALLOFF**

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**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR COMPOSITING IMAGES WITH  
COMPENSATION FOR LIGHT FALLOFF**

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

5 The invention relates generally to the field of digital image processing, and in particular to a technique for compositing multiple images into a panoramic image comprising a large field of view of a scene.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

10 Conventional methods of generating panoramic images comprising a wide field of view of a scene from a plurality of images generally include the following steps: (1) an image capture step, where the plurality of images of a scene are captured with overlapping pixel regions; (2) an image warping step, where the captured images are geometrically warped onto a cylinder, sphere, or  
15 any environment map; (3) an image registration step, where the warped images are aligned; and (4) a blending step, where the aligned warped images are blended together to form the panoramic image. For an example of an imaging system that generates panoramic images, see May et al. USSN 09/224,547 filed December 31, 1998.

20 In the image capture step, the captured images typically suffer from light falloff. As described in many texts on the subject of optics (for example, M. Klein, *Optics*, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, 1986, pp. 193-256), lenses produce non-uniform exposure at the focal plane when imaging a uniformly illuminated surface. When the lens is modeled as a thin lens, the ratio of the  
25 intensity of the light of the image at a point is described as  $\cos^4$  of the angle between the optical axis, the lens, and the point in the image plane. This  $\cos^4$  falloff does not include such factors as vignetting, which is a property describing the loss of light rays passing through an optical system.

30 In photographic images, this  $\cos^4$  falloff generally causes the corners of an image to be darker than desired. The effect of the falloff is more severe for cameras or capture devices with a short focal length lens. In addition, flash photography will often produce an effect similar to falloff if the subject is

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centrally located with respect to the image. This effect is referred to as flash falloff.

As described in US Patent 5,461,440 issued October 24, 1995 to Toyoda et al., it is commonly known that light falloff may be corrected by  
5 applying an additive mask to an image in a log domain or a multiplicative mask to an image in the linear domain. This conventional  $\cos^4$  based mask is solely dependent upon a single parameter: the focal length of the imaging system. Also, images with flash falloff in addition to lens falloff, may be compensated for by a stronger mask (i.e. a mask generated by using a smaller value for the focal length  
10 than one would normally use).

Gallagher et al. in USSN 09/293,197 filed April 16, 1999 describe a variety of methods of selecting the parameter used to generate the falloff compensation mask. For example, in this conventional teaching the parameter could be selected in order to simulate the level of falloff compensation that is  
15 naturally performed by the lens of the optical printer. Additionally, the parameter could be determined interactively by an operator using a graphical user interface (GUI), or the parameter could be dependent upon the film format (APS or SUC) or the sensor size. Finally, they teach a simple automatic method of determining the parameter.

20 Gallagher in USSN 09/626,882 filed July 27, 2000 describes a method of automatically determining a level of light falloff in an image. This method does not misinterpret image discontinuities as being caused by light falloff, as frequently happens in the other methods.

In panoramic imaging systems, any of the aforementioned methods  
25 of light falloff compensation could be used to compensate for the light falloff present in each source image. However, there would be a problem with using any of these methods directly. Since all of the current light falloff compensation methods are applicable to single images, any errors in the falloff compensation for each source image could be magnified when the composite image is formed.

Therefore, there exists a need in the art for a method of compensating for light falloff in multiple images that are intended to be combined into a composite image.

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## **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The need is met according to the present invention by providing a method and system for producing a composite digital image that includes providing a plurality of partially overlapping source digital images having pixel values that are linearly or logarithmically related to scene intensity; modifying the source digital images by applying to one or more of the source digital images a radial exposure transform to compensate for exposure falloff as a function of the distance of a pixel from the center of the digital image to produce adjusted source digital images; and combining the adjusted source digital images to form a composite digital image.

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## **ADVANTAGES**

The present invention has the advantage of simply and efficiently matching source digital images having light falloff characteristics such that the light falloff is compensated prior to the compositing step.

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## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a digital image processing system suitable for practicing the present invention;

Fig. 2 illustrates in block diagram form, the method of forming a composite image from at least two source images, at least one source image being compensated for light falloff;

Fig. 3 illustrates in block diagram form, one embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. 4A and 4B illustrate the overlap regions between source images;

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Figs. 5A and 5B illustrate in block diagram form, the step of providing source digital images to the present invention;

Fig. 6 is a diagram of the relationship between the focal length, pixel position, and light falloff parameter in one of the source digital images;

5 Fig. 7 is a diagram of the relationship between the focal length, pixel position, and light falloff parameter in two of the source digital images;

Fig. 8 is a diagram of the process of modifying the source digital image to compensate for light falloff;

10 Fig. 9 is a plot of the pixel values in the overlap region of the second source digital versus the pixel values of the overlap region of the first source digital image;

Fig. 10 is a plot of the pixel values in the overlap region of the second source digital image versus the pixel values of the overlap region of the first source digital image;

15 Fig. 11 is a diagram of the process of combining images to form a composite image;

Fig. 12 illustrates in block diagram form, an embodiment of the present invention further including the step of transforming the composite image into an output device compatible color space; and

20 Figs. 13A and 13B are diagrams of image data and metadata contained in a source image file.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

25 The present invention will be described as implemented in a programmed digital computer. It will be understood that a person of ordinary skill in the art of digital image processing and software programming will be able to program a computer to practice the invention from the description given below. The present invention may be embodied in a computer program product having a computer readable storage medium such as a magnetic or optical storage medium  
30 bearing machine readable computer code. Alternatively, it will be understood that the present invention may be implemented in hardware or firmware.

Referring first to Fig. 1, a digital image processing system useful for practicing the present invention is shown. The system generally designated **10**, includes a digital image processing computer **12** connected to a network **14**. The digital image processing computer **12** can be, for example, a Sun Sparcstation, and the network **14** can be, for example, a local area network with sufficient capacity to handle large digital images. The system includes an image capture device **15**, such as a high resolution digital camera, or a conventional film camera and a film digitizer, for supplying digital images to network **14**. A digital image store **16**, such as a magnetic or optical multi-disk memory, connected to network **14** is provided for storing the digital images to be processed by computer **12** according to the present invention. The system **10** also includes one or more display devices, such as a high resolution color monitor **18**, or hard copy output printer **20** such as a thermal or inkjet printer. An operator input, such as a keyboard and track ball **21**, may be provided on the system.

Referring next to Fig. 2, at least two overlapping source digital images are provided **200** to the processing system **10**. The source digital images can be provided by a variety of means; for example, they can be captured from a digital camera, extracted from frames of a video sequence, scanned from hardcopy output, or generated by any other means. The pixel values of at least one of the source digital images are modified **202** by a radial exposure transform so that any light falloff present in the source digital images is compensated, yielding a set of adjusted source digital images. A radial exposure transform refers to a transformation that is applied to the pixel values of a source digital image, the transformation being a function of the distance from the pixel to the center of the image. The adjusted source digital images are then combined **204** by a feathering scheme, weighted averages, or some other blending technique known in the art, to form a composite digital image **206**.

Referring next to Fig. 3, according to an alternative embodiment of the present invention, at least two overlapping source digital images are provided **300** to the processing system **10**. The pixel values of at least one of the source digital images are modified **302** by a radial exposure transform so that any light

fall-off present in the source digital images is compensated. In addition, the pixel values of at least one of the source digital images are modified 304 by a linear exposure transform so that the pixel values in the overlap regions of overlapping source digital images are similar. A linear exposure transform refers to a transformation that is applied to the pixel values of a source digital image, the transformation being linear with respect to the scene intensity values at each pixel. The radial exposure transform and the linear exposure transform can be applied to the same source digital image, or to different source digital images. Also, the modification steps 302 and 304 can be applied in any order. Once either or both of the modification steps are completed, they yield adjusted source digital images. The adjusted source digital images are then combined 306 by a feathering scheme, weighted averages, or some other blending technique known in the art, to form a composite digital image 308.

Referring next to Figs. 4A and 4B, the at least two source digital images 400 overlap in overlapping pixel regions 402.

Referring next to Fig. 5A, according to a further embodiment of the present invention, the step 200 of providing at least two source digital images further comprises the step 504 of applying a metric transform 502 to a source digital image 500 to yield a transformed source digital image 506. A metric transform refers to a transformation that is applied to the pixel values of a source digital image, the transformation yielding transformed pixel values that are linearly or logarithmically related to scene intensity values. In instances where metric transforms are independent of the particular content of the scene, they are referred to as scene independent transforms.

Referring next to Fig. 5B, in one embodiment, the step of applying the metric transform 504 includes applying a matrix transformation 508 and a gamma compensation lookup table 510. In one example of such an embodiment, a source digital image 500 was provided from a digital camera, and contains pixel values in the sRGB color space. A metric transform 502 is used to convert the pixel values into nonlinearly encoded Extended Reference Input Medium Metric (ERIMM) (PIMA standard #7466, found on the World Wide Web at

[http://www.pima.net/standards/it10/IT10\\_POW.htm](http://www.pima.net/standards/it10/IT10_POW.htm)), so that the pixel values are logarithmically related to scene intensity values.

Referring next to Fig. 6, we illustrate the relationship between the focal length  $f$  600, pixel position  $(u, v)$  602, and light falloff parameter  $\theta$  604 in one of the source digital images 608. If the origin 606 is located at the center of the source digital image 608, and if a uniformly illuminated surface parallel to the image plane is imaged through a thin lens, then the exposure  $I(u, v)$  received at pixel position  $(u, v)$  is given by:

$$I(u, v) = I(0, 0) \cos^4 \left( \tan^{-1} \theta \right),$$

$$\theta = \frac{\sqrt{u^2 + v^2}}{f},$$

where  $I(0, 0)$  is the exposure falling on the center of the source digital image 608, and the focal length  $f$  600 is measured in terms of pixels.

Referring next to Fig. 7, we illustrate two source digital images 700 and 702 that overlap in an overlapping pixel region 704. The center 706 of source digital image 700 is located at the image center, and its local coordinate system is defined by positions  $(u, v)$ . The center 708 of source digital image 702 is located at the image center, and its local coordinate system is defined by positions  $(x, y)$ . The focal length used in the capture of source digital images 700 and 702 is given by  $f$  710 (in pixels). Consider a point 714 located in the overlapping pixel region 704. If the coordinates of point 714 are given by  $(u_i, v_i)$  in image 700, and by  $(x_i, y_i)$  in image 702, and if a uniformly illuminated surface parallel to the image plane is imaged through a thin lens during both the captures of source digital image 700 and source digital image 702, then the exposure  $I(u_i, v_i)$  received at point 714 in source digital image 700 is given by:

$$I(u_i, v_i) = I_1(0, 0) \cos^4 \left( \tan^{-1} \alpha_i \right),$$

$$\alpha_i = \frac{\sqrt{u_i^2 + v_i^2}}{f},$$



where  $I_1(0,0)$  is the exposure falling on the center of the source digital image 700. The exposure  $I(x_i, y_i)$  received at point 714 in source digital image 702 is given by:

$$I(x_i, y_i) = I_2(0,0) \cos^4(\tan^{-1} \beta_i),$$

$$\beta_i = \frac{\sqrt{x_i^2 + y_i^2}}{f},$$

where  $I_2(0,0)$  is the exposure falling on the center of the source digital image 702.

The point 714 in the overlapping pixel region 704 when considered as a point in the source digital image 700, corresponds to the same scene content as if it were considered a point in the source digital image 702. Therefore, if the overall exposure level of each source digital image 700 and 702 is the same, then the light falloff can automatically be determined without the knowledge of the focal length. (Note that if the focal length is known, the amount of light falloff is readily determined by the aforementioned formula). Consider that the exposure value recorded at point 714 in source digital image 700 is  $I_i'$ , and the exposure value recorded at point 714 in source digital image 702 is  $I_i''$ . Then, the following relation must hold:

$$\frac{I_i''}{\cos^4\left(\tan^{-1}\left(f^{-1}\sqrt{x_i^2 + y_i^2}\right)\right)} = \frac{I_i'}{\cos^4\left(\tan^{-1}\left(f^{-1}\sqrt{u_i^2 + v_i^2}\right)\right)}.$$

Since  $I_i'$ ,  $I_i''$ ,  $u_i$ ,  $v_i$ ,  $x_i$ , and  $y_i$  are known, the focal length  $f$  710 can be found by identifying the root of the function:

$$g(f) = I_i'' \cos^4\left(\tan^{-1}\left(f^{-1}\sqrt{u_i^2 + v_i^2}\right)\right) - I_i' \cos^4\left(\tan^{-1}\left(f^{-1}\sqrt{x_i^2 + y_i^2}\right)\right).$$

This root can be approximated by an iterative process, such as Newton's method; see J. Stewart, "Calculus", 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., Brooks/Cole Publishing Company, 1991, p. 170. Once the focal length  $f$  710 has been found, we know enough information to compensate for light falloff without having to identify the falloff parameter as described in one of the aforementioned light falloff compensation techniques.

Even though the focal length can be estimated from the pixel values of a single point 714 in the overlapping pixel region 704 of the source digital images 700 and 702, multiple points in the overlapping pixel region can be used to provide a more robust estimate. Consider  $n$  points in the overlapping pixel region 704, where  $n > 1$ . Let these points have coordinates  $(u_i, v_i)$ ,  $i = 1 \dots n$  in source digital image 700, and coordinates  $(x_i, y_i)$ ,  $i = 1 \dots n$  in source digital image 702. Consider that the exposure value recorded at the  $i^{\text{th}}$  point in source digital image 700 is  $I_i'$ , and the exposure value recorded at the  $i^{\text{th}}$  point in source digital image 702 is  $I_i''$ . Now, the aforementioned relation must hold for each point in the overlapping pixel region 704. Therefore, the focal length  $f$  710 can be found by minimizing some error measure. A typical error measure is sum of squared errors (SSE). Using SSE, the following function would be minimized:

$$r(f) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ I_i'' \cos^4 \left( \tan^{-1} \left( f^{-1} \sqrt{u_i^2 + v_i^2} \right) \right) - I_i' \cos^4 \left( \tan^{-1} \left( f^{-1} \sqrt{x_i^2 + y_i^2} \right) \right) \right]^2.$$

The minimum of  $r(f)$  can be found by one of a variety of different techniques; for example, nonlinear least squares techniques such as the Levenberg-Marquardt methods (Fletcher, "Practical Methods of Optimization", 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., John Wiley & Sons, 1987, pp. 100-119), or line search algorithms (Fletcher, pp. 33-40).

All of the aforementioned formulas and equations can be applied when the image pixel values are proportional to the exposure values falling onto the image planes. If image pixel values are proportional to the logarithm of the exposure values (as is the case if the image pixel values are encoded in the nonlinear encoding of ERIMM), then all of the aforementioned formulas must be modified to replace  $\cos^4(\bullet)$  with  $4\log(\cos(\bullet))$ , where  $\bullet$  indicates the argument of the cosine function.

In some instances, the overall exposure level of each source digital image 700 and 702 can differ. In these cases, the light falloff and the factor describing the overall difference in exposure levels can be simultaneously determined automatically without the knowledge of the focal length; however,

two distinct points in the overlapping pixel region **704** are required. Copending  
 USSN \_\_\_\_\_ (EK Docket 83516/THC) filed by Cahill et al. November 5, 2001,  
 details a technique for automatically determining the factor describing overall  
 difference in exposure levels between multiple images, but that technique may not  
 be robust if there is any significant falloff on at least one of the source images.  
 Consider that the exposure value recorded at the  $i^{\text{th}}$  point in the overlapping pixel  
 region of source digital image **700** is  $I_i'$ , and the exposure value recorded at the  
 corresponding point of source digital image **702** is  $I_i''$ , and that  $i \geq 2$ . Then, the  
 following relation must hold:

$$\frac{I_i''}{\cos^4 \left( \tan^{-1} \left( f^{-1} \sqrt{x_i^2 + y_i^2} \right) \right)} = \frac{h I_i'}{\cos^4 \left( \tan^{-1} \left( f^{-1} \sqrt{u_i^2 + v_i^2} \right) \right)},$$

for  $i = 1 \dots n$ , where  $h$  is the factor describing the overall difference in exposure  
 levels. Since  $I_i'$ ,  $I_i''$ ,  $u_i$ ,  $v_i$ ,  $x_i$ , and  $y_i$  are known, the focal length  $f$  and the  
 exposure factor  $h$  can be found by minimizing some error measure. A typical  
 error measure is sum of squared errors (SSE). Using SSE, the following function  
 would be minimized:

$$r(f, h) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ I_i'' \cos^4 \left( \tan^{-1} \left( f^{-1} \sqrt{u_i^2 + v_i^2} \right) \right) - h I_i' \cos^4 \left( \tan^{-1} \left( f^{-1} \sqrt{x_i^2 + y_i^2} \right) \right) \right]^2.$$

The minimum of  $r(f, h)$  can be found by one of a variety of different nonlinear  
 least squares techniques, for example, the aforementioned Levenberg-Marquardt  
 methods.

As in the case where the overall exposure characteristics of the  
 source images are the same, if the image pixel values are not proportional to  
 exposure values, but rather to the logarithm of the exposure values, the above  
 relation becomes:

$$I_i'' - 4 \log \left( \cos \left( \tan^{-1} \left( f^{-1} \sqrt{x_i^2 + y_i^2} \right) \right) \right) = h + I_i' - 4 \log \left( \cos \left( \tan^{-1} \left( f^{-1} \sqrt{u_i^2 + v_i^2} \right) \right) \right),$$

and the corresponding function to minimize is:

$$r(f, h) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ I_i'' - I_i' - h + 4 \log \left( \cos \left( \tan^{-1} \left( f^{-1} \sqrt{u_i^2 + v_i^2} \right) \right) \right) - 4 \log \left( \cos \left( \tan^{-1} \left( f^{-1} \sqrt{x_i^2 + y_i^2} \right) \right) \right) \right]^2$$

Referring next to Fig. 8, the process of modifying the source digital image **800** to compensate for light falloff is illustrated. A light falloff

- 5 compensation mask **802** is generated and applied to the source digital image to form the adjusted source digital image **804**. The compensation mask **802** can either be added to or multiplied by the source image **800** to form the adjusted source digital image **804**. If the source image pixel values are proportional to exposure values, the value of the mask at pixel position  $(u, v)$  (with  $(0,0)$  being the center of the mask) is given by:

$$\text{mask}(u, v) = \left[ \cos^4 \left( \tan^{-1} \left( f^{-1} \sqrt{u^2 + v^2} \right) \right) \right]^{-1},$$

and the mask **802** is multiplied with the source digital image **800** to form the adjusted source digital image **804**. If the source digital image pixel values are proportional to the logarithm of the exposure values, the value of the mask at pixel position  $(u, v)$  (with  $(0,0)$  being the center of the mask) is given by:

$$\text{mask}(u, v) = -4 \log \left( \cos^4 \left( \tan^{-1} \left( f^{-1} \sqrt{u^2 + v^2} \right) \right) \right),$$

and the mask **802** is added to the source digital image **800** to form the adjusted source digital image **804**.

- 20 Referring next to Fig. 9, we show a plot **900** of the pixel values in the overlap region of the second source digital **902** versus the pixel values of the overlap region of the first source digital image **904**. If the pixel values in the overlap regions are identical, the resulting plot would yield the identity line **906**. In the case that the difference between the pixel values of the two images is a constant, the resulting plot would yield the line **908**, which differs at each value
- 25 by a constant amount **910**. The step **304** of modifying at least one of the source digital images by a linear exposure transform would then comprise applying the constant amount **910** to each pixel in the first source digital image. One example of when a linear exposure transform would be constant is when the pixel values of

the source digital images are in the nonlinearly encoded Extended Reference Input Medium Metric. The constant coefficient of the linear exposure transform can be estimated by a linear least squares technique (see Lawson et al., Solving Least Squares Problems, SIAM, 1995, pp. 107-133) that minimizes the error  
5 between the pixel values in the overlap region of the second source digital image and the transformed pixel values in the overlap region of the first source digital image.

In another embodiment, the linear exposure transforms are not estimated, but rather computed directly from the shutter speed and F-number of  
10 the lens aperture. If the shutter speed and F-number of the lens aperture are known (for example, if they are stored in meta-data associated with the source digital image at the time of capture), they can be used to estimate the constant offset between source digital images whose pixel values are related to the original log exposure values. If the shutter speed (in seconds) and F-number of the lens  
15 aperture for the first image are  $T_1$  and  $F_1$  respectively, and the shutter speed (in seconds) and F-number of the lens aperture for the second image are  $T_2$  and  $F_2$  respectively, then the constant offset between the log exposure values is given by:

$$\log_2\left(\frac{F_2^2}{F_1^2}\right) + \log_2(T_2) - \log_2(T_1) - \log_2(T_1),$$

and this constant offset can be added to the pixel values in the first source digital  
20 image.

Referring next to Fig. 10, we show a plot **1000** of the pixel values in the overlap region of the second source digital **1002** versus the pixel values of the overlap region of the first source digital image **1004**. If the pixel values in the overlap regions are identical, the resulting plot would yield the identity line **1006**.

25 In the case that the difference between the two images is a linear transformation, the resulting plot would yield the line **1008**, which differs at each value by an amount **1010** that varies linearly with the pixel value of the first source digital image. The step **304** of modifying at least one of the source digital images by a linear exposure transform would then comprise applying the varying amount **1010**  
30 to each pixel in the first source digital image. One example of when a linear exposure transform would contain a nontrivial linear term is when the pixel values

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of the source digital images are in the Extended Reference Input Medium Metric. The linear and constant coefficients of the linear exposure transform can be estimated by a linear least squares technique as described above with reference to Fig. 9.

5 Referring next to Fig. 11, the adjusted source digital images **1100** are combined in the overlap region **1104** by a feathering scheme, weighted averages, or some other blending technique known in the art, to form a composite digital image **1106**. In one embodiment, a pixel **1102** in the overlap region **1104** is assigned a value based on a weighted average of the pixel values from both  
10 adjusted source digital images **1100**; the weights are based on its composite digital image **1106** to the edges of the adjusted source digital images **1100**.

Referring next to Fig. 12, according to a further embodiment of the present invention, at least two source digital images are provided **1200** to the processing system **10**. The pixel values of at least one of the source digital images  
15 are modified **1202** by a radial exposure transform so that any light falloff present in the source digital images is compensated, yielding a set of adjusted source digital images. The adjusted source digital images are then combined **1204** by a feathering scheme, weighted averages, or some other blending technique known in the art, to form a composite digital image **1206**. The pixel values of the composite  
20 digital image are then converted into an output device compatible color space **1208**. The output device compatible color space can be chosen for any of a variety of output scenarios; for example, video display, photographic print, ink-jet print, or any other output device.

Referring finally to Figs. 13A and 13B, at least one of the source  
25 digital image files **1300** may contain meta-data **1304** in addition to the image data **1302**. Such meta-data **1304** could include the metric transform **1306**, the shutter speed **1308** at which the image was captured, the f-number **1310** of the aperture when the image was captured, the focal length **1312** when the image was captured, a flash indicator **1314** to indicate the use of the flash when the image  
30 was captured, or any other information pertinent to the pedigree of the source

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digital image. The meta-data can be used to directly compute the linear transformations as described above.

The invention has been described in detail with particular reference to certain preferred embodiments thereof, but it will be understood that variations and modifications can be effected within the spirit and scope of the invention.

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# PARTS LIST

10	digital image processing system
12	digital image processing computer
14	network
15	image capture device
16	digital image store
18	high resolution color monitor
20	hard copy output printer
21	keyboard and trackball
200	provide source digital images step
202	modify source digital images step
204	combine adjusted source digital images step
206	composite digital image
300	provide source digital images step
302	modify source digital images with radial exposure transform step
304	modify source digital images with linear exposure transform step
306	combine adjusted source digital images step
308	composite digital image
400	source digital images
402	overlap regions
500	source digital image
502	metric transform
504	apply metric transform step
506	transformed source digital image
508	matrix transform
510	gamma compensation lookup table
600	focal length $f$
602	point $(u,v)$
604	angle $\theta$
606	image center
608	source digital image
700	source digital image
702	source digital image
704	overlapping pixel region
706	image center

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708 image center  
710 focal length  $f$   
714 point  
800 source digital image  
802 light falloff compensation mask  
804 adjusted source digital image  
900 plot of relationship between pixel values of overlap region  
902 second image values  
904 first image values  
906 identity line  
908 actual line  
910 constant offset  
1000 plot of relationship between pixel values of overlap region  
1002 second image values  
1004 first image values  
1006 identity line  
1008 actual line  
1010 linear offset  
1100 adjusted source digital images  
1102 pixel  
1104 overlap region  
1106 composite digital image  
1200 provide source digital images step  
1202 modify source digital images step  
1204 combine adjusted source digital images step  
1206 composite digital image  
1208 transform pixel values step  
1300 source digital image file  
1302 image data  
1304 meta-data  
1306 metric transform  
1308 shutter speed  
1310 f-number  
1312 focal length  
1314 flash indicator